

**CRAIG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION****P.O. Box 828****Craig, Alaska 99921****Phone: 907-826-3996****Fax: 907-826-3997****Email: cctrife@aptalaska.net**

February 6, 2003

Local Boundary Commission  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 1770  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

**Local Boundary Commission Members:**

This letter of opposition is submitted on behalf of Craig Community Association, the local federally recognized Tribe for the community of Craig, Alaska, in regards to the Local Boundary Commissions recommendation to have Prince of Wales Island formed into a borough.

Our council has met in special meetings with other POW Island communities; tribal governments, and municipalities, and other prominent and active organizations. It is CCA's consensus to strongly oppose SB48, "Equity in Education Funding Act", an act that facilitates annexation of the unorganized boroughs into organized boroughs with very limited public input from those directly affected.

Communities in rural areas contribute to local schools through the Federal Impact Aid. Therefore, the Alaska State Legislature cannot say that rural areas do not contribute to local schools. This bill effectively allows the State to dictate what type of government will be established with no local control over the process. Craig Community Association is opposed to this form of taxation because of very limited economy and lack of a tax base in rural Alaska. Rural Alaskans do not have the economic ability due to many factors including the high cost of living including freight, food and fuel.

We appreciate the careful evaluation of not only our comments but also that of the most current and accurate economic statistics available.

Sincerely,

A. Millie Stevens  
CCA Tribal President